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Be bow bended, my story 's ended.
If you don't like it, you may mend it;
A piece of pudden for telling a good un,
A piece of pie for telling a lie.

Editor's Note. — With regard to rhymes given on p. 83, it may be remarked that the formula "Lucy Locket lost her pocket" is familiar in America, as belonging to a childish game, but is not understood to refer to a flower. In the rhyme "Snail, snail, come out of your hole," the word "snail" has been substituted for the original "mole" the formula having once been employed as part of a rite, originally of sacred processional character, intended to expel field-mice. (See vol. v. p. 23.) The transition to a new land has injuriously affected the original simplicity of these survivals, so delightfully illustrating the close connection of man and nature; but probably an interesting paper could be written on American childish formulas by any one possessing the requisite patience and observation.

COURTSHIP FORMULAS OF SOUTHERN NEGROES. — The "Southern Workman," Hampton, Va., for January, 1895, contains the following interesting addition to our knowledge of these formulas, first noted in this Journal (vol. vii. p. 147).

1. Dear lady, I come down on justice an' qualification to advocate de law condemnin' de lady dat was never condemn befo' — not dat I'se gwine to condemn you, but I can condemn many odders.

2. Kin' lady, went up on high gum an' came down on little Pe de, where many goes but few knows.

Kin' lady, are yo' a standin' dove or a flyin' lark? Would you decide to trot in double harness, and will you give de mos excrutish pleasure of rollin' de wheels of de axil, accordin' to your understandin'? If not my tracks will be col' an' my voice will not be heard aroun' your do! I would bury my tomahawks an' dwell upon de subtell of mos' any T.

4. Kin' lady, ef I was to go up between de heavens an' de yearth an drop down a grain of wheat over ten acres of land an' plow it up wid a rooster fedder, would you marry me?

5. Good miss, ef dere was a beautiful bloom, how could you get it wid-out reachin', sendin', walkin', or goin' at it? (Answer: Get it by love.)

6. Kin' lady, s'pose you was to go 'long de road an' meet a pet rabbit, would you take it home an' call it a pet o' yourn?

7. Good lady, ef you was to come down de riber an' you saw a red stran' o' thread, black o' white, which one would you chose to walk on? (In the answer, the color of the thread given is the color of the man she would accept.)

8. Oh, good kin' lady, kin you go up 'twix' heaven an' de yarth an' bring me a blue morena wid a needle an' thread in it?

9. Kin' lady, since I have been trav'lin' up hill, valley, an' mountain, I nebber seed a lady dat suit my fancy mo' so den you does. Now is you a towel dat had been spun, or a towel dat had been woven? (Answer: If spun, single.)

10. Good lady, I was in a garden in my dream, an' I saw de lovelies' table, an' on de table was a fine cake an' a glass of wine, an' a beautiful lady was walkin' in de garden, and you were de lady. If you saw a peas hull in de garden which one would you choose, one wid one pea in it or a hull full of peas. (Answer : The hull with one pea is a single man, the hull full of peas is a widower with children.)

11. Good lady, ef I was to give you a handkerchief to wash an' iron, how would you do it widout water or iron ? (Answer : Iron it with love.)

The foregoing are from Miss Portia Smiley, Calhoun, Alabama ; those which follow are added by members of the Folk-Lore Society in Hampton.

Are you a rag on the bush or a rag off the bush ? (Answer : If a rag on the bush, free, if off, engaged.)

I saw three ships on the water, one full-rigged, one half-rigged, and one with no rigging at all. Which would you rather be ? (Full rigged, married ; half-rigged, engaged ; no rigging, single.)

Sometimes the girl wishes to find out her friend's intentions. *If so*, it may be done without loss of dignity through the following circumlocution : —

"Suppose you was walkin' by de side o' de river an' dere was three ladies in a boat, an' dat boat was overturned, which lady would you save, a tall lady or a short lady or a middle-sided lady ?"

If the young man declares his desire to save a lady corresponding in height to his questioner, she may rest assured that his intentions are serious. He may perhaps add the following tender avowal : —

"Dear miss, ef I was starvin' an' had jes one ginger-cake, I would give you half, an' dat would be de bigges' half."

Should a girl find herself unable to understand the figurative speech of her lover, she may say, "Sir, you are a huckleberry beyond my persimmon," and may thus retire in good form from a conversation in which her readiness in repartee has not been equal to her suitor's skill in putting sentimental questions.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

MEMOIRS OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY. — The announcement has been made that the third volume of the *Memoirs* would consist of a collection of Current Superstitions, made by Mrs. Fanny D. Bergen. As this volume, however, is not yet ready for the press, it will be replaced by a collection of "Bahama Songs and Stories," made by Professor Charles L. Edwards, of the University of Cincinnati. An interesting feature of this volume will be the melodies of the songs, forty in number, written by Professor Edwards, from recitations in the Bahamas. These melodies are exceedingly characteristic, in many cases very beautiful, and a considerable addition to our knowledge of negro folk-music in America. The relation of this Bahama music to that of the Southern States of the Union, with which it closely corresponds, presents interesting problems. The Bahamas